

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-14. (Cancelled)

15. (New) An endoscope apparatus comprising:

a flexible slender insertion section inserted from its distal end into a to-be-inspected space, the insertion section being constructed from a distal portion for picking up an observation image, a bendable portion to be bent, and a slender flexible tube portion, which are coupled, and having a proximal portion on an opposite side of a distal portion of the flexible tube portion; and

an operation section coupled to a proximal end of the insertion section, the operation section having a grip portion gripped by an operator, a bending operation portion which bends the bendable portion, and a display portion formed of a display panel which displays the observation image provided on a frame integrally attached to the grip portion,

wherein the insertion section has a channel provided so that a treatment instrument extends out from a distal open end provided on the distal portion, and wherein a proximal open end for inserting the treatment instrument into the channel is provided on the frame of the display portion so as to open to the display panel side.

16. (New) An endoscope apparatus comprising:

a flexible slender insertion section inserted from its distal end into a to-be-inspected space, the insertion section being constructed from a distal portion for picking up an observation image, a bendable portion to be bent, and a slender flexible tube

portion, which are coupled, and having a proximal portion on an opposite side of a distal portion of the flexible tube portion; and

an operation section coupled to a proximal end of the insertion section, the operation section having a grip portion gripped by an operator, a bending operation portion which bends the bendable portion, and a display portion formed of a display panel which displays the observation image provided on a frame integrally attached to the grip portion,

wherein the insertion section has a channel provided so that a treatment instrument extends out from a distal open end provided on the distal portion, and wherein a proximal open end for inserting the treatment instrument into the channel is provided on the grip portion so as to open to a rear side of the display panel.

17. (New) An endoscope apparatus comprising:

a flexible slender insertion section inserted from its distal end into a to-be-inspected space, the insertion section being constructed from a distal portion for picking up an observation image, a bendable portion to be bent, and a slender flexible tube portion, which are coupled, and having a proximal portion on an opposite side of a distal portion of the flexible tube portion; and

an operation section coupled to a proximal end of the insertion section, the operation section having a grip portion gripped by an operator, a bending operation portion which bends the bendable portion, and a display portion formed by a display panel which displays the observation image provided on a frame integrally attached to the grip portion,

wherein the insertion section has a channel provided so that a treatment instrument extends out from a distal open end provided on the distal portion, and wherein

a proximal open end for inserting the treatment instrument into the channel opens between the grip portion and a frame of the display portion.

18. (New) The endoscope apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the grip portion is formed of a grip which can be gripped by one hand of the operator, the grip portion having a casing and a forceps-port constructing member, and the forceps-port constructing member is located at a position at which the forceps-port constructing member does not interfere with an operation of the bending operation portion.

19. (New) The endoscope apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the grip portion is formed of a grip which can be gripped by one hand of the operator, the grip portion having a casing and a forceps-port constructing member, and the forceps-port constructing member is located near the display portion and the bending operating portion.

20. (New) An endoscope apparatus comprising:
a flexible slender insertion section inserted from its distal end into a to-be-inspected space, the insertion section being constructed from a distal portion for picking up an observation image, a bendable portion to be bent, and a slender flexible tube portion, which are coupled, and having a proximal portion on an opposite side of a distal portion of the flexible tube portion; and
an operation section coupled to a proximal end of the insertion section, the operation section having a grip portion gripped by an operator, a bending operation portion which bends the bendable portion, and a display portion formed of a display panel

which displays the observation image provided on a frame integrally attached to the grip portion,

wherein the insertion section has a channel provided so that a treatment instrument extends out from a distal open end provided on the distal portion, and wherein a proximal open end for inserting the treatment instrument into the channel is provided on a side of the frame.

21. (New) An endoscope apparatus comprising:

a flexible slender insertion section inserted from its distal end into a to-be-inspected space, the insertion section being constructed from a distal portion for picking up an observation image, a bendable portion to be bent, and a slender flexible tube portion, which are coupled, and having a proximal portion on an opposite side of a distal portion of the flexible tube portion; and

an operation section coupled to a proximal end of the insertion section, the operation section having a grip portion gripped by an operator, a bending operation portion which bends the bendable portion, and a display portion formed of a display panel which displays the observation image provided on a frame integrally attached to the grip portion,

wherein the insertion section has a channel provided so that a treatment instrument extends out from a distal open end provided on the distal portion, and wherein a proximal open end for inserting the treatment instrument into the channel is provided on a base of a grip end of the grip portion.

22. (New) The endoscope apparatus according to claim 21, wherein the grip portion has a grip which can be gripped by one hand of the operator.

23. (New) The endoscope apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said grip portion has a casing and a forceps-port constructing member, and the forceps-port constructing member is coupled to the proximal open end of the base of said grip end so as to provide a forceps-port.

24. (New) The endoscope apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said frame has a connection portion detachable from said grip portion.

25. (New) An endoscope apparatus comprising:
an insertion section inserted into a to-be-inspected space, the insertion section comprising:
a flexible slender tube portion,
a bendable portion to be bent, coupled to a distal end of the flexible slender tube portion,
a distal portion for picking up a to-be-inspected subject, coupled to the distal end of the bendable portion, and
a distal portion provided on an opposite side of the distal end of the flexible slender tube portion; and
an operation section coupled to a proximal end of the insertion section, the operation section comprising:
a grip portion gripped by an operator, and
a bending operation portion which bends the bendable portion,
the grip portion that can be gripped by one hand of the operator, the grip portion having a casing and a forceps-port constructing member, the

forceps-port constructing member being located near the display portion and the bending operation portion and coupled to the proximal open end, wherein the grip portion has a display portion for displaying an observation image of the to-be-inspected subject picked up by the distal portion, the display portion having a display panel, and a frame integrally attached to the grip portion, and

wherein the insertion section has a channel provided so that a treatment instrument extends out from a distal open end provided on the distal portion, and wherein a proximal open end for inserting the treatment instrument into the channel is provided on the frame of the display portion so as to display panel side.

26. (New) The endoscope apparatus according to claim 25, wherein a tube supporting member is provided between said frame and a proximal position of said flexible tube portion, the tube supporting member having a forceps-port constructing member.

27. (New) The endoscope apparatus according to claim 25, further comprising a universal cord section and a case which can house the insertion section, the universal cord section and the operation section in a wound state.